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SOURCE Jen-min Jih-pao

GOOD SPRING WHEAT AND SOYBEAN HARVEST EXPECTED IN NORTHEAST;  
ILLEGAL METHODS USED TO DEPRESS GRAIN PRICES IN KIANGSI

Summary: Mechanized state farms in the Northeast have begun the harvest of spring wheat. The largest wheat growing area is in northern part of the Northeast Administrative Area which has 19 of the 24 mechanized state farms located in the Northeast. Excellent yields are also expected of soybean crops in this area.

Some grain dealers in Kiangsi have been speculating on growing crops and thus depressing prices and making profits. Since a good harvest of early rice is expected, efforts are being made to eliminate this illegal practice.

Weeds have overgrown certain areas of cultivated land in Shantung.

NORTHEAST MECHANIZED FARMS BEGIN SPRING WHEAT HARVEST -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 9 Aug 53

At present, all Northeast mechanized state farms have begun the harvest of spring wheat. In 1953, 24 farms in the Northeast planted spring wheat which covered an area of more than 620,000 mou. The northern part of the Northeast Administrative Area has 19 of these farms with a wheat growing area of 600,000 mou. Because farmers used revised agricultural techniques, followed methods of deep plowing and close planting and strengthened field management, the sprouting rate of the wheat was better than 90 percent. In the Northeast, north of the 45th Parallel there is only a short period in which there is no frost (generally from 120 to 140 days) and the entire year's rainfall of 500 to 600 millimeters is concentrated in July, August, and September. Furthermore, the greatest amount of rain is in August during the spring wheat harvesting period, and if suitable preparations are for harvesting activities, the ripened wheat can be greatly damaged. During the 1951 wheat harvest, there was continuous rain and because some farms did not take precautionary measures,

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they were unable to use their equipment and the wheat was lost. Benefitting from this lesson, in 1953 all the farms in the Northeast planted earlier than previously so that the wheat would ripen earlier.

At the conclusion of spring planting each farm took advantage of the slack time to repair and service its equipment in preparation for harvesting. From 10 June to 10 July, the Northeast State Farm Control Bureau assembled over 300 combine operators at the No 93 State Farm for a short-term training course. After extensive preparations, harvesting began early in August.

**SEES GOOD SOYBEAN HARVEST IN NORTHEAST -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 12 Aug 53**

Growth of soybean crops in the Northeast has been very good and if no calamities occur there will be an excellent harvest in 1953. The area of land planted in soybeans has increased in the Northeast in the past few years. In 1953, there is a 35 percent increase over 1949. Because of the increase in cultivated area, as well as in individual area production, the yield in 1952 was 11.8 higher than the highest prewar output.

To increase their production, farmers in the Northeast are revising farming techniques. The entire area is using best quality seeds. Over 90 percent of the bean fields in Sungkiang are planted with "Wan-ts'ang-chin" seed. In Kirin and Liaosi, "Hsiao-chin-huang" seed is widely used since it is suited to that area's soil and weather conditions. In planting, the farmers have selected fields that are rich in nitrogen; these fields occupy over 52 percent of the total soybean cultivated area, an increase of 500 percent over 1952. These techniques have resulted in good growth and strong plants.

**UNSCRUPULOUS GRAIN DEALERS SPECULATE ON CROPS -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao 9 Aug 53**

The new grain crop in Kiangsi will be appearing on the market soon, but there are many unscrupulous grain dealers who speculate on growing crops and make a huge profit. For example, in Nan-ch'ang Hsien, 31 of the 61 privately owned rice companies have speculated on growing crops. These rice dealers buy the grain at prices on third lower than those posted by state-operated companies; there are some who go as far as one half of the posted price. This phenomenon is prevalent throughout Kiangsi.

The Kiangsi Jih-pao stated in an editorial that all levels of government and rural cadres must instruct the farmers that they are not compelled to sell their grain to speculators. Cadres must propagandize the government prices and explain that prices are better after the harvest. Also, efforts must be made to solve the difficulties of the farmers. For example, the farmers must be stimulated to help one another, to make use of loans, and to take advantage of the resources of credit mutual aid teams and credit cooperatives. Labor and commercial authorities should also inform all organizations and privately owned concerns that depressing prices is an illegal method of gaining profit.

The management of Tu-t'ou-chieh State-Operated Market in Nan-ch'ang Hsien carried out timely buying and eliminated price depression. The market is one of the first stages in the collection and distribution of food, so before the appearance of the grain on the market, this market has the Twelfth Ch'u Cooperative

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do the buying of grain. Further, they organize propaganda activities directed at the farmers. When the farmers can sell their new grain at good prices their confidence is strengthened and they can also purchase production materials which they need.

The Hsu Huo-ken Mutual Aid Team sold 12 piculs of grain and was able to buy 800 catties of dried bean cake, sickles, oil, salt, and other miscellaneous materials. The Twelfth Ch'u Cooperative stocked 70,000 catties of bean cake and is almost sold out.

PREDICTS ABUNDANT RICE HARVEST IN KIANGSI -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 9 Aug 53

With the exception of a few areas in which the crops were damaged by calamities, Kiangsi will have an abundant harvest of early rice in 1953. According to an inspection of crop conditions made in Kan, Ta-yu, and Ning-tu hsien in July, the average increase in production will be between 8 to 15 percent over last year.

Some areas in Chi-an Special Administrative District were calamity stricken but the district still had an increase of 7 percent; Sui-ch'uan Hsien had a 13 percent increase. Shang-jao Special Administrative District was flooded but also increased its production 8 percent. The Nan-ch'ang and Fu-chou Special Administrative Districts both had similar harvests. In general, including the lowest production figures of calamity stricken areas, the 1953 average increase in yields is still approximately 7 percent higher than last year.

SHANTUNG FALL CROPS NEED WEEDING -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 9 Aug 53

According to reports from all hsien of Tzu-t'uan Special Administrative District in Shantung, weeds have grown rapidly in some areas because summer hoeing was neglected. For example, in Chang-ch'iu Hsien preliminary reports show that there are about 400 mou of land overgrown with weeds. A large portion of this land has been planted in fall crops such as corn, beans, etc. Huang-chia Hsien in Tzu-ch'uan Hsien also has more than 100 mou of land which needs weeding. The main reasons for this condition are that some of the people are engaged in secondary occupations, and some do not have the labor or means of hiring workers to do the work. It is the duty of the cadres to investigate and correct these conditions to ensure an abundant autumn harvest.

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